

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09

H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SS-15 USIA-12 EB-11 IO-12 DPW-01 NIC-01 RSR-01 /128 W
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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1848

INFO CJN USSAG NKP RTAFB

CINCPAC

USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 8775

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, VS

SUBJECT: THE LOWER DELTA BRACES FOR A MAY VC MILITARY HIGHPOINT

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON FROM CAN THO MAY 18
REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO

QUOTE CAN THO 0329

1. SUMMARY: RECENT INTELLIGENCE INDICATES THAT THE VC ARE
PLANNING TO LAUNCH INCREASED ATTACKS IN BA XUYEN AND BAC LIEU
PROVINCES IN MAY. GVN PROVINCE AUTHORITIES HAVE ISSUED ORDERS
TO PREPARED FOR THE EXPECTED HIGHPOINT, WHICH WILL EMPHASIZE
POLITICAL AND MILITARY PROSELYTING AS WELL AS MILITARY
ACTIVITY. END SUMMARY.

2. GVN PROVINCE AUTHORITIES IN BA XUYEN AND BAC LIEU
PROVINCES ARE ECHOING REPORTS HEARD ELSEWHERE IN MR IV THAT AN
ENEMY HIGHPOINT WILL BE LAUNCHED IN MAY. ON TWO OCCASIONS
SINCE MAY 5, THE BA SUYEN PROVINCE CHIEF MENTIONED TO A VICE
CONSUL THAT HE EXPECTS HEAVY VC ATTACKS ALONG THE NGA NAM
DISTRICT- CHUONG THIEN PROVINCE BORDER AND IN THUAN HOA DISTRICT
IN MAY. INTELLIGENCE REPORTS STATE THAT THE RECENTLY- FORMED
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PHU LOI II LOCAL FORCE BATTALION HAS REAPPEARED IN THUAN HOA,
A DISTRICT WHICH EXPERIENCED VIGOROUS ROUND OF VC- INITIATED

ACTIVITY RIGHT AFTER THE CEASEFIRE. ON MAY 15, THE USAID LOCAL
EMPLOYEE ASSIGNED TO NGA NAM DISTRICT REPORTED THAT PEOPLE WERE
BEGINNING TO HORDE RICE AND OTHER GOODS IN ANTICIPATION OF AN
UPSURGE IN FIGHTING.

3. BAC LIEU REGIONAL FORCES CAPTURED AN IMPORTANT DISTRICT
LEVEL VC DOCUMENT APRIL 30 CONTAINING INSTRUCTIONS FOR VC ACTI-
VITY DURING MAY IN VC CHAU THANH DISTRICT, VC QUAN LONG
PROVINCE. THE VC CHAU THANH DISTRICT CHIEF SIGNED THE DOCUMENT
ORDERING THE LIBERATION OF FIVE SPECIFICALLY- NAMED HAMLETS AND
INCREASED POLITICAL/ MILITARY PRESSURE IN TWO VILLAGES IN
CONTESTED, AGRICULTURAL AREAS OF GIA RAI AND PHUOC LONG
DISTRICTS WEST OF HIGHWAY 4. THE DOCUMENT ALSO CALLS FOR THE
VC TO NEUTRALIZE LOCAL LEVEL DEMOCRACY PARTY OFFICIALS, SEVER
HIGHWAY 4 BY SAPPER ACTION, AND INTERCEPT ARTILLERY AMMUNITION
SUPPLIES DESTINED FOR GVN OUTPOSTS IN INSECURE PHONG THANH TAY
VILLAGE, WESTERN PHUOC LONG DISTRICT. ON THE POLITICAL FRONT,
THE DOCUMENT ORDERS CADRE TO PREPARE ANTI- GVN DEMONSTRATIONS BY
RELIGIOUS GROUPS IN THE FORM OF MARCHES ON THE PROVINCE CAPITAL
AND TO INCREASE POLITICAL ACTIVITY IN HAMLETS THROUGHOUT THE
DISTRICT. IT ALSO INSTRUCTS CADRE TO ESTABLISH AT LEAST TWO
" TRAITORS" IN EVERY OUTPOST IN THE DISTRICT BY JUNE, AND TO
STEP UP MILITARY PROSELYTING AMONG THE FAMILIES OF SOLDIERS.

4. COMMENT: BOTH THE BA XUYEN AND BAC LIEU PROVINCE CHIEFS HAVE
ORDERED HEIGHTENED VIGILANCE AMONG THEIR TROOPS IN THE FACE OF
THE EXPECTED VC HIGHPOINT. BAC LIEU PROVINCE FORCES, ALREADY
STRETCHED THIN BY ATTRITION SUFFERED IN THE POST- CEASEFIRE
FIGHTING AMONG ITS TWO RF MOBILE UNITS, FACE CREDITABLE THREATS
ON FOUR FRONTS: VINH CHAU DISTRICT: LONG DIEN VILLAGE IN SOUTH-
EASTERN GIA RAI, AN EXTENSION OF AN XUYEN' S TAN CANH BASE AREA
WHICH EXPERIENCED INCREASED BC PRESSURE IN LATE MARCH AND EARLY
APRIL; SOUTHWESTERN GIA RAI DISTRICT ADJOINING AN XUYEN; AND
WESTERN PHUOC LONG DISTRICT. IN BA XUYEN, A VC ATTACK IN NGA
NAM COULD DRAW SUSTENANCE FROM VC/ NVA- CONTROLLED AREAS IN NEARBY
CHUONG THIEN AND ATTRACT GVN UNITS OPERATING IN THE SPECIAL
INTER- PROVINCE TACTICAL ZONE (SITZ) ALONG THE EASTERN BAC LIEU-
BA XUYEN BORDER.

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5. VC INTENTIONS TO TARGET LOCAL DEMOCRACY PARTY OFFICIALS AND
TO ORGANIZE ANTI- GVN DEMONSTRATIONS BY RELIGIOUS GROUPS ARE
PROBABLY RELATED TO THE UPCOMING GVN VILLAGE ELECTIONS AND THE
SON THAL ASSASSINATION (CAN THO A151). SIX VILLAGE ELECTIONS
ARE SCHEDULED FOR MAY IN GIA RAI DISTRICT AND TWO IN NGA NAM.
RELIGIOUS MARCHES ARE THE USUAL FORM OF PROTEST USED BY

CAMBODIAN MONKS AGAINST THE GVN. THE VC INTENTION TO GENERATE
SUCH MARCHES IS PROBABLY AIMED AT EXPLOITING THE DEEP ANTI- GVN
RESENTMENT WITHIN BAC LIEU PROVINCE' S LARGE KHMER KROM MONK
POPULATION WHICH WAS LEFT BY THE APRIL 3 SON THAL ASSASSINATION.
SIGNED WISNER UNQUOTE
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